

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 660

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Ernest Charles
Harriss II.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Ernest “Ernie” Charles Harriss II; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harriss was a brilliant musicologist, an internationally renowned specialist in 18th century music, and an exemplary educator who devoted his career to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee’s students; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Harriss was born on September 14, 1939, in Sebring, Florida, to his caring and devoted parents, Albert Edward and Norma Lee Dutton Harriss; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Dr. Harriss became a three-time graduate of Vanderbilt University, earning his Bachelor’s degree, his Master’s degree, and his Ph.D. from that prestigious institution; and

WHEREAS, from 1970 until 1976, he served with acumen and alacrity as the Chairman of the Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, in which position he earned the respect and admiration of his students and colleagues alike due to the exemplary quality of his classes and his effective leadership style; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harriss continued to expertly enlighten generations of students on the intricacies of the art of music in his role as a professor at UT-Martin until 2003, when he took a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, as a Humboldt Fellow, Dr. Harriss devoted a full year to supporting and inspiring the faculty at the University of Hamburg in Germany; and

WHEREAS, this highly influential Professor Emeritus also lent his musical expertise to several prominent institutions, including the American Musicological Society and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harriss distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with several charitable organizations, including We Care Ministries; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Ernie Harriss was an active and devout member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he served his Lord as an elder for many years; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Harriss was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his loving parents and his sister, Deborah Ann Harriss; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harriss enjoyed forty-five years of marital bliss with his beloved wife, Elaine Harriss, who shared his passion for music and is the current Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, he was the loving and devoted father and father-in-law of Edward Atkins and Elena Harriss and Ernest Charles "Trip" Harriss III; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Harriss will also be sorely missed by his three grandchildren, Blasé Edward Harriss, Ronin Atkins Harriss, and Ella Louise Harriss; his brother and sister-in-law, William Lee and Mary Harriss; and a host of friends, family, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harriss leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Ernest Charles Harriss II, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Harriss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.